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WAOL OFFICIAL ADDRESS
P.O. Box 47250
1300 S. Evergreen Park
Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

WAOL WEB SITE
www.utc.wa.gov/waol

NATIONAL OL WEB SITE
www.oli.org



January 2009

Volume 1

Official newsletter of Washington Operation Lifesaver (WAOL), an education program dedicated to saving lives at highway-rail crossings and along railroad rights-of-way.

Washington OL Volunteers Step Up for Tacoma Holiday Event

The Washington State History Museum in Tacoma invited Operation Lifesaver to educate attendees at their annual Model Train Festival in Tacoma from December 26 to January 3. This 9-day event included 5 floors of model trains and saw a record attendance of more than 9,000 people. Washington Operation Lifesaver brought in the Dash 9 Locomotive Simulator which normally stays in the exhibit trailer. It was busy non-stop throughout the event and reinforced the fact that trains can't swerve or stop quickly to avoid collisions. In addition to the simulator, a large OL display was set up and presenters and associates talked one on one to people about being safe around trains. Many thanks go out to the following 16 presenters and associates who volunteered their holiday time to make this a very successful event: Casey Cox, Zac Biagtan, David Agee, Dean Dahlin, Gary Groff, Ric Overlie, Garrison Bromwell, Robert Johnston, Martin Young, Bob Boston, Paul Gangstad, Mike Turcott, Carolyn Simmonds, Scott Barrett, Susan Barrett, and Steve Mills.



Carolyn Simmonds handles the crowd at the OL display and David Agee tends to a young engineer on the locomotive simulator.

Washington Crash Statistics for 2008

Collisions involving trains and the general public resulted in 16 fatalities in our state last year. Collisions at crossings resulted in 4 deaths (2 bicyclists, 1 pedestrian and 1 automobile driver). Pedestrians trespassing on the railroad right-of-ways resulted in the deaths of 12 people. All 16 deaths occurred in Western Washington and each incident happened along the Interstate 5 rail corridor between Bellingham and Vancouver, WA. On a positive note, there were no fatalities in the last quarter of 2008. The last fatal incident of 2008 occurred on September 2. Summaries of each incident can be found on our Web site. Go to www.utc.wa.gov/waol/ and click on "Crash Statistics". Non-fatal incidents for 2008 are also listed, but are not complete. There is usually a 3 to 4 month lag time for non-fatal reporting. You will also find crash statistics summaries and tables for previous years, including national statistics on our Web site.

Railroad Safety Awareness Comes to Moses Lake School

Longview Elementary School in Moses Lake sits next to the Columbia Basin Railroad. Many of the students live in a neighborhood just across those tracks and are faced with the issue of getting to school safely because there is no easy access to the school. While agencies are busy looking for an appropriate engineering solution to this problem, Operation Lifesaver visited the school recently and educated more than 540 students about crossing safety and the dangers of trespassing on railroad property. Presenters Ray Ralph and Bob Boston went from classroom to classroom on January 13 and educated students and teachers on how to stay safe around trains. In the evening, Ray Ralph and Larry Amaya teamed up to educate adults at a special parent meeting. Ray did the presentation in English while Larry presented the message in Spanish for the Hispanic community.



Longview Elementary students are all ears as Ray Ralph talks about the dangers of trespassing on railroad tracks.

OL Presenters Take Safety Message to Fairchild Air Force Base



Pictured above, left to right: Bill Bentley, Alma Bentley, Maggie Haverfield, Don Beatty

Maggie Haverfield, Don Beatty, Alma Bentley and Bill Bentley educated attendees at the Family Days event on Fairchild Air Force Base in Airway Heights near Spokane. The four dedicated presenters set up a display booth and worked all day talking to hundreds of people about crossing safety and pedestrian dangers. All are retired railroad employees and are always eager to volunteer their time to educate the public and save lives. Maggie Haverfield (pictured in red shirt and black cap) is President of Union Pacific Employee Club No. 10 in Spokane and recently accepted the Outstanding Activity Safety Award at a meeting in San Antonio, Texas for her club's dedication to rail safety education.

Grant Received for Rail Safety Media Campaign

In December, Washington Operation Lifesaver received a States Assistance Grant for a television media campaign. The \$13,000 grant is being used in markets that target the Interstate 5 rail corridor in Puget Sound and Southwest Washington, the Spokane area and Central Washington down to the Tri-Cities area. The new safety commercials are animated. One is for grade crossing safety and the other is trespass danger. If you have not seen them, they can be viewed at www.oli.org/shark. Safety commercials in Spanish are also being broadcast in Eastern Washington by KCJT Hispanavision. The commercials began airing on December 26 and will continue through most of January. Some stations will also continue to run them as free PSA's after the paid campaign.



New Site for Reporting Presentations/Special Events

In January 2009, a change was made in the reporting of presentations and special events for Washington Operation Lifesaver. Operation Lifesaver, Inc. has asked us to use their national web site for reporting all presentation activity and events. Our current reporting form on the Washington Operation Lifesaver web site now has a direct link to the national web site www.oli.org.

The instructions for the new reporting system are listed on the page and are as follows:

Welcome Presenters and Associates!

The following link will take you to the new reporting site at Operation Lifesaver, Inc.: www.oli.org

Instructions:

1. At the top of the page, click on "Login to OL Community"
2. Enter your login and password to reach the secure site. To obtain a login and password, please e-mail Jayzel Lizares at jlizares@oli.org, or call 1-800-537-6224.
3. Under "Secure OL Functions" click on "Submit Presenter Report."
4. Follow instructions under "Submit Your Presentation Report."

If you have any problems reporting presentations or special events at the OLI site, please contact Bob Boston at bboston@utc.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 664-1264.

Remember, it's very important to report all activities. At the end of each year we submit an annual report that documents what we have accomplished during the year. Our funding sources use this information to determine funding for the next year. Without accurate reporting statistics, we would not be able to continue our education efforts.

Area Coordinators Contact Information

The current area coordinators and their telephone contact information are listed below. These coordinators can help schedule presentations and support presenters with materials. If you are unable to contact an area coordinator, please contact Bob Boston at 360-664-1264 (office), 360-701-1615 (cell) or e-mail at bboston@utc.wa.gov.

WESTERN WASHINGTON:

David Agee – BNSF Railway – 206-418-9859

Dean Dahlin – Union Pacific Railroad – 360-508-6132

Steve Mills – BNSF Railway, retired – 360-266-7167

EASTERN WASHINGTON:

Marie Scott – Central Valley School District (Spokane) – 509-710-7913

Ray Ralph – Walla Walla and Tri Cities – 541-938-5118

We are in need of an area coordinator for the Yakima Valley area. If you know of someone who may be interested in coordinating activities in this area, please contact Bob Boston in Olympia.

